



---

# Drinking Water Branch

## Fact Sheet

### Operator Certification Rule

---

*What public water supplies must have a certified operator?*

All community public water systems, all nontransient noncommunity public water systems, and any transient noncommunity public water systems that are using surface water or groundwater under the direct influence of surface water, or any transient noncommunity public water systems that require complex treatment.

*What are the different types of distribution systems and what do they mean?*

**Class DSS:** Distribution systems that serve fewer than 3,300 and have no components other than pressure tanks or storage tanks.

**Class DSM:** Distribution systems that serve a population of greater than 3300 and less than 10,001 people and have no components other than pressure tanks or storage tanks

**Or**

Distribution systems that consist of pump, storage tanks, and booster pumps to the storage tanks.

**Class DSL:** Distribution systems that serve a population greater than 10,000

**Or**

Distribution systems that consist of storage tanks, booster pumps to the distribution system, and mechanical devices for movement of water beyond storage.

*What are the different types of water treatment systems and what do they mean?*

**Class WT1:** Water treatment systems that serve a population of less than 501, acquire water from ground water or purchase, and use either an ion exchange softening process for cation removal or an inline filtration device with no chemical treatment.

**Class WT2:** Systems that acquire water from ground water or purchase and utilize a chemical feed to achieve disinfection or fluoride standardization or water stabilization

**Class WT3:** Systems that acquire water from ground water or purchase, utilize a chemical feed, and have one (1) of the following:

- Pressure or gravity filtration
- Ion exchange processes (if the population served is greater than 501)
- Lime soda softening
- Reverse osmosis

*Many waterworks operators have multiple licenses*

**Class WT4:** Systems that serve a population less than 10,001 and acquire water from surface water, or ground water under the direct influence of surface water.

**Class WT5:** Systems that serve a population greater than 10,000 people and acquire water from surface water, or ground water under the direct influence of surface water.

**Class WT6:** Systems that utilize newly emerging treatment technology not commonly in use for drinking water treatment in Indiana, as determined by the commissioner.

**Who administers the certification of water operators?**

Indiana Department of Environment Management  
OWQ Drinking Water Branch - Mail Code 66-34  
100 N. Senate Avenue  
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2251  
Contact: Ruby Keslar at 317-308-3305

**What is required to become a certified operator?**

All individuals for each class must pass an examination, have a high school education or its equivalent and possess educational skills necessary to: handle fractions and decimals; read a linear scale; calculate volumes of simple shapes; make simple computations of multiplication and division; keep records; read and write the English language to the extent of interpreting service manuals and work orders and submitting written reports; and understand basic principles of sanitation.

Each grade of water works operator certification requires a specific amount of acceptable work experience that has been obtained under the supervision of an appropriately certified operator.

**What are CEUs?**

CEUs are continuing education units. All certified operators are required to obtain a designated number of continuing education contact hours during their three year renewal period. CEUs are broken down into contact hours which are fifty to sixty minutes instructional sessions involving a qualified instructor or lecturer. Ten contact hours equals one CEU. Each grade of operator must complete a specific amount of contact hours in order to renew their certification. The following shows Certified Operator Class and contact hours needed for every three year renewal:

DSS	10 contact hours
DSM	15 contact hours
DSL	15 contact hours
WT1	10 contact hours
WT2	15 contact hours
WT3	25 contact hours
WT4	30 contact hours
WT5	30 contact hours
WT6	30 contact hours

**Who do I contact if I have questions?**

You should contact the *IDEM Drinking Water Branch*, if you have any questions. Our number is 317-308-3321. You may contact the *IDEM Environmental Helpline* at 800-451-6027 and ask them to connect you with 308-3321, or the *EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline* at 800-426-4791.

**Rule Citations:**

327 IAC 8-12-1, 327 IAC 8-12-1.1, 327 IAC 8-12-2, 327 IAC 8-12-3, 327 IAC 8-12-4, 327 IAC 8-12-5, 327 IAC 8-12-6, 327 IAC 8-12-7, 327 IAC 8-12-7.1, 327 IAC 8-12-8.

*This fact sheet is intended solely as guidance and does not have the effect of law or represent formal Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) decisions or final actions. This fact sheet shall be used in conjunction with applicable rules and statutes. It does not replace applicable rules and statutes, and if it conflicts with these rules and statutes, the rules and statutes shall control.*